Letters

Writer comments on local 'feud'

Editor:

A feud has developed here in Appomattox County between hunters and many citizens and landowners over the practice of hunting from vehicles along state and county roads. Last month the county board of supervisors was presented a petition by Mrs. Pat Hodge requesting that the practice be stopped. The petition was signed by nearly 100 citizens and Mrs. Hodge has stated that many others have signed since that time. The controversy arises in how best to stop the practice. It is already illegal in the county to hunt within 100 yards of a public road, yet some hunters continue to break the law by engaging in this type of unsportsman-like conduct. Chief Deputy Cecil A. Reynolds stated "We try to enforce it but it is difficult to catch someone in the act." Mrs. Hodge's proposed ordinance makes the law enforceable by making it illegal to carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle while on state or county roads. Thus the sheriff's department doesn't actually have to catch the road hunter in the act of discharging their firearm along the road. The intent to do so is implied by the fact that their arms are loaded. Some hunters however, believe this ordinance would violate our second amendment constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Chief spokesman against the proposal is retired U. S. Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt. Mr. Abbitt believes that this proposal is tampering with our basic rights.

As a hunter and life member of the National Rifle Association, I agree with Mr. Abbitt that we should not in any way tamper with our second amendment right. No regulation should ever be passed which would prohibit our right to have a firearm for personal protection whether it be loaded or unloaded. In defense of Mrs. Hodge's proposal, she does have a clause which states: "The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers, military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, nor to any person who reasonably believes that a loaded rifle or shotgun is necessary for his personal safety in the course of his employment or business." In defense of Mr. Abbitt's position, that clause is not especially easy to find in the petition and may be subject to interpretation.

Thus the battle lines are drawn and our county supervisors find themselves squarely in the middle of a hotly debated dispute. After all, we let our fellow hunters get away with this unsportsman like practice without voicing our objections to them. The problem exists. The number of signatures on Mrs. Hodge's petition says so. I have seen hunters hunting right next to the road and can verify that there really is a problem. **Not all hunters are to blame.** In fact the majority of law abiding sportsmen do not condone this practice. Neither do they carry loaded rifles and shotguns in their veehicles. Most hunters will agree that to carry a loaded firearm in a vehicle is an unsafe practice. So how are we to educate the road hunters and turn them into law abiding sportsmen? Perhaps such an ordinance as Mrs. Hodge requests is inevitable. It is a shame that we let the situation get bad enough that it was even proposed. If we can't keep our fellow hunters in line, the next time we might be faced with an ordinance which outlaws hunting all together. Perhaps a simple solution for the county supervisors would be to re-write Mrs. Hodge's proposal in such a way that the clause guaranteeing our right to keep and bear arms is made more clear and prominent. Since the vast majority of hunters do not carry loaded weapons in their vehicles anyway, the hunters may in fact get behind a re-written ordinance. Thirteen Virginia counties already have such ordinances on the books as do many other states. My own position is that I am in favor of Mrs. Hodge's proposal provided it does not infringe on our right to carry a firearm for protection. Most probably the only opposition to a revised petition would be the road hunters themselves. Then again maybe forcing them to get back into the woods is not such a good idea. They would probably just get lost anyway!! If you've got an opinion on this issue by all means let your county supervisor know.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Guild

Billy Conner cited

Letter to the Editor:

"A friend is he who sets his heart upon us, is happy with us and delights in us; does for us what we want, is willing and fully engaged to do all he can for us, on whom we can rely in all cases."

William Ellery Channing must have had our faithful mail carrier in mind when he wrote those words. Billy Conner is certainly an individual who has set his heart on us who live on Route 3. He not only brings our mail but much besides, such as happiness, sunshine and deep concern for each of us. He is every ready to go the second mile, if needed. Can any of us ever forget the ice and snow of January when many of us were completely isolated, not expecting to see a soul for days; then up would drive our friend, Billy, saying, "It isn't too bad and I made it."

Has anyone ever seen Billy unkind, rude or unaccommodating? To pay Billy a very high compliment, a member on the Route remarked that he is as good as Reggie Stanley, whom we all appreciated so much, when he was Route #3 carrier.

We realize that there are many ways in which Billy shows his friendship to us, and now publicly, Billy, we want you to know that your kindness and service are greatly appreciated by us. May the Lord richly bless you.

Box holders on Route 3

MR. CHARLES MEADOWS was congratulated by Park Superintendent, Jon B. Montgomery, on receiving his 40 year service pin. A veteran of World War II, Mr. Meadows was discharged in 1962 after a twenty year career in the United States Navy. For the last nineteen years, he has been employed as a historical interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Other assignments include the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he began his National Park Service career.

MR. BILL TALBERT received a $25.00 suggestion award for designing vandal and water proof litter receptacles.

Writer questions solons

Letter to the Editor

Not women only, but men, the Commonwealth and nation deserve better than the legislative recidivism demonstrated by the Virginia House of Delegates. An ERA button expresses the circumstances very well:

Men of quality are not threatened by women for equality.

Conceivably the strength and courage of Del Dorothy McDiarmid, Sonia Johnson, Eleanor Smeal and many people in the Commonwealth does threated the kind of men in the legislature. There must be more than seven unthreatened members of the House Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is not too late for them and House LEADERS to appraise themselves candidly and permit a full vote to reveal the people of quality.

Marvin W. Rogers
Newport news

Keep Up With Local Happenings Read The Times-Virginian

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School Menus

Pamplin Elem. Menu

Thurs., Feb. 18 - Hamburgers, french fries, corn on cob, buns, milk.

Fri., Feb. 19 - sliced ham, baked apples, blackeyed peas, roll, milk.

Mon., Feb. 22 - Hot dogs, potato tots, turnip greens, milk.

Tues., Feb. 23 - Pizza, green beans, fruit, cookie, milk.

Wed., Feb. 24 - Sausage pattie, whipped potatoes, buttered carrots, applesauce, biscuit, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 25 - Seafood pattie, green peas, fruit, cookie, roll, milk.

Fri., Feb. 26 - Fried chicken, buttered whole potatoes, blackeyed peas, sliced bread, milk.

Elementary School

Mon., Feb. 22 - Hot dog on bun, vegetarian beans, coleslaw, sliced peaches, milk.

Tues., Feb. 23 - Oven fried chicken, sliced bread, seasoned mixed greens, creamy potatoes, fruit cup, milk.

Wed., Feb. 24 - Cream of tomato soup, spiced lunch meat sandwich, tomato and lettuce salad, applesauce, milk.

Thurs., Feb. 25 - Hamburger on bun, potato tarts, w'eatsup, mixed vegetables, fruit cup, milk.

Fri., Feb. 26 - Pork barbecue on bun, green beans, potatoes, pineapple slices, milk.

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4-H news

By BRIAN DICKERSON
Pamplin 4-H News

Feb. 5 - The president, Wendy McClenny, called the meeting to order. There was a 4-H Cookie Contest on Feb. 10 Wednesday. On July 5-9 there will be 4-H Camp. The cost this year will be $46.00. The 4-H camp pool will be finished in March. Mr. Sweet talked about electricity in our class. There will be bluebird houses for sale this year. They will cost $1.25. Our leaders led us in two games. Our meeting was adjourned.

By EUGENE FRANKLIN

Mrs. Jackson's 4-H met on February 9, 1982. It was announced that there would be a cookie contest on February 12. Three kinds of cookies could be entered. They were drop cookies, bar cookies, and decorated cookies.

Mr. Sweet told the 4-H members that they could order blue bird house kits for $1.25. Mr. Sweet also showed us a film about electricity. It told us how to use electricity safely.

By STACY MOORE

Mrs. Walton's 4-H Club met on Thursday, Feb. 11, 1982. We discussed all the recent 4-H events. We were told that 4-H camp will be held on July 5 - July 9. We saw a film about electrical safety hazards around your home. The meeting was then adjourned.

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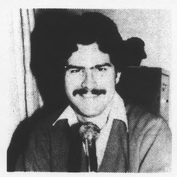
Doug Marshall



Dave Johnson

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